

Remarks

Claims 1-15 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 11 were rejected. Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, and 15 were merely objected to and claims 12-14 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 1, 8, 9, and 15 are amended, and claims 16-22 are added. No new matter is presented.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to for enumerated informalities. By the foregoing amendment, these have been corrected as helpfully proposed by the examiner.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to for enumerated informalities in FIG. 2. The reference numeral 92 has been added as requested. The noted redundant use of 106 has been corrected to 108 (also in paragraph 0019 (0021 of PGPub. 20050106009A1)).

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 and 15 were objected to for enumerated informalities in claims 1, 8, 9, and 15. By the foregoing amendment, these have been corrected as helpfully proposed by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in as-filed claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, and 12-15.

New claim 20 is allowable as-filed claim 2 in independent form.

New claim 22 is allowable as-filed claim 10 in independent form.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 were rejected as being anticipated by Honda et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,987. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The examiner helpfully labeled a copy of Honda et al. FIG. 2. Claims 1 and 9 have been

amended to identify a bleed plenum. Claims 17 and 19 further identify this as an annular plenum. Support for this is found at paragraph 0016/18 of the application/publication and element 58 of FIG. 2. Honda et al. neither discloses nor suggests such a plenum.

In the Office action, the asserted claimed structural case was referenced by Honda et al. numerals 40 and 42 and the aft and fore joints marked with letters E and F. These letters point to areas where the Honda et al. housing 42 is sealed to an adjacent shroud ring but not secured thereto (see the beginning of paragraph 0021/23 of the application/publication). For clarification, dependent claims 16 and 18 have been amended to identify these joints as involving securing and identify the joints as bolted. Support for this is found in paragraph 0021/23 of the application/publication and FIG. 2. Honda et al. does not disclose or suggest such joining. Bolting has also been added in dependent claim 21.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chlus U.S. Patent 6,802,691 in view of Honda et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The rejection is believed overcome for the same reasons as is the 102(b) rejection. The examiner identified element 20 of Chlus as the structural case. However, there is no suggestion for the claimed bleed plenum.

Claims 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. in view of Malmborg U.S. PGPub. 2005/0008486. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Malmborg has apparently cited for "having a compressor with a structural case 76 that carries fan exit guide vanes 77..." Office action, page 8. It is not clear whether this is intended to replace the structural case of Honda et al. as it is differently positioned. It is clear from FIG. 2 of Malmborg that the element having the valve ports (above the reference numeral 84) is in floating relation to the shroud sealed by O-rings as is Honda et al. Accordingly, neither Malmborg, Honda et al., nor their combination suggest the claimed bleed plenum.

Claims 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. in view of Chlus and further in view of Malmborg. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office action included a repeated discussion of Malmborg. As noted above, however, even if the combination were proper it fails to suggest the claimed bleed plenum.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

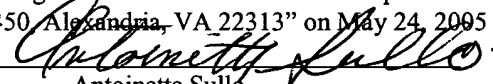
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Date: May 24, 2005

Enclosure: Replacement Sheet 2

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313" on May 24, 2005


Antoinette Sullo

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace drawing sheet 2 with the attached replacement sheet.